

the chronicle

Guests mull over festivities at mayor's parlour

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Council workers clean up at national awards

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Hairdresser says thanks by raising money for hospital

— see page 12



Festive pupils take the Yellow Brick Road . . .

THESE happy youngsters enjoyed a festive trip down the Yellow Brick Road when they performed a Christmas play with a difference. They're from Cotwall End Primary School, based on Cotwall End Road in Sedgley, which played host to A Christmas Wizard of Oz. Every single school pupil was involved in the production, which ran for three days last week. Key Stage 1 manager Gemma Simmons, a big fan of the original Wizard of Oz film and musical, penned the play. She said: "The children and staff have worked extremely hard during the past few weeks learning lines, class songs and dances and classic songs from the film like Somewhere over the Rainbow and Follow the Yellow Brick Road. All three shows were really well attended by parents and every pupil did themselves proud." As a reward for their hard work, children from Years 1 and 2 went to Wyre Forest, Bewdley, for a day of activities.



Social club folds as numbers drop

A LONG-RUNNING Dudley social club has closed down after a drop in membership and trade. Brierley Hill Labour Club in Pearson Street is on sale for £325,000.

The club, which was founded in the 1930s, went into administration after starting to lose thousands of pounds when business plummeted.

It was shut and put into administration after profits dropped. Begbies Traynor administrators have taken control of the property and are trying to sell it.

There have been a number of viewings but no offers yet.

Labour councillor for Brierley Hill, Margaret Wilson, said: "It's a sad loss to the area – it's sad to see anything like that go.

"I suppose these things just happen with time, though. I think there was a lack of people using it, as is the case

with a lot of these clubs nowadays."

The club was often packed during election results nights and was used for Labour party meetings up until the late 1990s.

In recent years shoppers were allowed to use the car park but this failed to bring in extra trade.

The club had been used for regular live music events but business fell off in recent years and membership dropped.

Linda Clayton, a manager at Begbies Traynor, said the club had been run by three trustees who got into financial difficulties. They fell behind repaying a Marstons brewery loan.

"The brewery have a charge over the property in exchange for money loaned to the club," she said.

She added any proceeds from a sale would go towards paying off the brewery's loan.

FOUNDER OF HOSPICE DIES

Blast rocks town centre

AN EXPLOSION caused chaos in Dudley town centre when a manhole cover was hurled through the air, smashing two shop windows.

It led to the closure of part of a busy shopping street. Two workers were treated for shock after the underground explosion on Tuesday.

Dozens of workers turned up to find a 300-yard section of the High Street between Stone Street and Stafford Street, cordoned off by police.

An electrical fault in an underground sub-station caused the blast which blew off a manhole cover outside WH Smith, smashing two of the shop's windows.

Witnesses reported seeing flames leap from the manhole with plumes of smoke filling the area at about 7.30am. The

road closure caused long queues of traffic which stretched along Stafford Street, The Inhedge and Vicar Street, while delays were also caused on the Dudley Southern By-Pass.

Jane Walsh, aged 35, who was walking down the High Street when the explosion happened, said: "I heard this huge bang and breaking glass."

"I turned round and saw these flames coming out of the manhole. It was really scary."

West Midlands Ambulance Service treated two people at the scene for shock. Investigations were carried out into the electrical supply for the High Street to make sure it is safe.

Santander bank worker Mark Terry said: "It's quite a shock to turn up for work and see all this going on."

A charity pioneer and Dudley alderman whose determined nature influenced people and organisations in Stourbridge has died.

Jock Poyner, MBE, was a former mayor of Stourbridge, secretary of Stourbridge FC and joint-founder of Mary Stevens Hospice.

He passed away at Russells Hall Hospital last week aged 89.

Edinburgh-born Mr Poyner was described as being "very approachable, pleasant and positive thinking".

His son David said: "He was very much a loving family man who gave me and my brother (Jonathan) so much encouragement."

"He always gave a lot of pleasure to other people through what he did."

As well as being heavily involved in football, education, charity and politics, Mr Poyner was a Second World War pilot who flew in Lancaster bombing operations.

After the war he played football semi-professionally for West Bromwich Albion and Birmingham City,

By Tim Spiers
tim.spiers@expressandstar.co.uk

before playing for Stourbridge and Brierley Hill. He became secretary of Stourbridge FC until 1973.

He taught at Hill Street School, Stourbridge, and Crabtree Street School, Lye, and was headteacher at Tenterfields Primary School, Halesowen, until his retirement in 1982.

In 1968 he became the youngest mayor in Stourbridge's history and served two terms until 1970. The Pedmore resident was made an honorary alderman by Dudley Council and was awarded the MBE in 1997.

The longest-lasting of his legacies will be Mary Stevens Hospice, which he helped to establish in 1985. "I never got an answer out of dad as to why he set up the hospice," 53-year-old David, who lives in Cheshire, added.

"Someone once called him Mr Stourbridge for all he'd done for the town and I think that about sums him up."

After jointly forming the hospice, Mr Poyner became company secretary and sat on the board until 2002.

Gwynne Drellis, chairman of the board of trustees at Mary Stevens, said: "Bearing in mind his influential standing in the area, to have devoted that much time to the hospice will make us eternally grateful."

"You couldn't have found a person more devoted to the cause which he was partly responsible for developing."

"He was a very impressive man; cooperative, helpful, respected and revered and very much appreciated for his kindness, consideration and thoughtfulness. Jock was a splendid chap."

Councillor Peter Miller, mayor of Dudley, added: "Jock was a wonderful man who did a great deal for Stourbridge and spent a lifetime helping people. He was made an honorary alderman of the borough due to his outstanding services to Stourbridge and he will be sadly missed."

Mr Poyner's first wife, Harvine, died in May 1969. He leaves a widow, Dr Brenda Clarke, two sons, three step children, 14 grandchildren and six grandchildren. His funeral will be on Tuesday (21) at St Mary's Church, Oldswinford, at 11.30am.

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Councillor so sorry in row over race joke

A DUDLEY Conservative councillor has suspended himself from the party after an email sent to council members as a joke sparked a racism row.

Halesowen Councillor Ken Turner last week apologised for the "error" and said he would attend a cultural awareness course.

The Hayley Green and Cradley South member has been referred to Dudley Council's standards committee by Labour Councillor Tim Crumpton, who branded the joke "disturbing".

Councillor Turner circulated an email on December 2 on his council account to all councillors containing what was called a joke about a Somalian immigrant.

It described it as "maybe the best joke of the year".

It talks of a Somalian immigrant in London who asks a series of people if they are British before being told by an African lady all the British are probably "at

work". Councillor Turner said he would not step down. "It was a joke that I thought would maybe raise a titter but when I heard that someone may have taken offence to it I instantly apologised.

"It was an error and I realise that. I will let the procedures take their course and I am going to attend a diversity awareness course."

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"With all that happened in Dudley over the past few years with the EDL, this is a disgrace."

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Banned dog club gets new centre

A DOG training club kicked out of a Black Country community centre in a row over germs has found a new home.

Stourbridge and District Canine Society was told to leave Cradley Community Centre in Colley Lane over health and safety fears, which club members branded "barking mad".

Cradley Community Association was concerned the dogs might leave germs that could pose a health risk to children using the centre.

The group said last week it had found a new home and would be starting meetings in February but refused to reveal the location for the time being.

It said it was within a few miles of the community centre and members already knew its location.

The group said it wanted to become "more established" in its new home before letting it become widely known.

Members were stunned after the association announced they were no longer allowed to use the building despite being loyal to the venue for nearly 30 years.

Committee member Chris Smith said: "We have been able to find another home so we will be able to continue regular meetings from February.

"We have only had to change the day from Thursday to Tuesday."

Zoo lead thief finds himself behind bars

Mayir mulls over festivities



The mayor of Dudley, Councillor Peter Miller with mayoress Hilary Miller and guests at this year's mulled wine and mince pies charity event

Go-ahead for £1.2m mosque

A £1.2 million mosque and community centre will be built in the Brierley Hill after councillors gave the go-ahead. The proposals for Rizvia Mosque, in Trinity Street, were called "a great achievement for the whole community".

Dudley Council's development control committee chiefs praised the scheme on Monday. The decision to grant planning permission to the Muslim Welfare Association comes three years after a parking dispute forced leaders to withdraw plans.

The existing mosque will be demolished and replaced by a two-storey building

MULLED wine and mince pies were on the menu when the mayor of Dudley, Councillor Peter Miller, hosted a Christmas fundraising event.

Dudley Council staff and members of the public visited the mayor's parlour on Friday for the charity afternoon, which also included a raffle and tombola. In total £645.35 was raised for the mayor's charities, the Thomas Pocklington Trust which helps provide housing and support for people with sight loss, Acorns Children's Hospice and the Alzheimer's Society.

Councillor Miller said: "Thank you to everyone who came along to the parlour, it was great to spread season's greetings and raise much needed money for my chosen charities.

"This is a wonderful early Christmas present to these very worthwhile charities."

A JOBLESS man has been jailed for 10 weeks for stealing lead from Dudley Zoo buildings and a church near Wolverhampton. Aaron Safe admitted taking the metal from an 1800s stone building and toilet block at Dudley Zoo and the roof of All Saints Church, Trysull.

He was sentenced to 10 weeks in prison for the church theft and nine weeks for the taking of lead from Dudley Zoo in Castle Hill. The sentences will run concurrently. The father-of-one pleaded guilty to the charges at a previous hearing.

Safe, aged 28, of Padarn Close, Sedgley, was one of two men who had been seen on the roof of the church building, in School Road, on September 2 by a member of the public, Cannock magistrates heard. He was seen stripping lead flashing from the roof and rolling it up to make it easier to transport.

Poole were called and Safe identified as one of the men on the roof.

He was also one of four men who had climbed on the roof of a building at Dudley Zoo on October 31 and stripped away lead, magistrates were told.

Poole were called after their vehicle was spotted on a car park near the zoo. Three men had been arrested at the scene and Safe later on the same day.

Mrs Sonia Durrant-Clarke, prosecuting, said significant damage had been caused to the roof of the zoo buildings and meant they were no longer weather proof.

"The amount of the lead taken from the zoo was worth around £300 but the damage left ran into thousands of pounds," she said.

Mr Steve Hamblett, defending, said Safe had fallen in with a bad crowd after losing his job. "He had debts and in pursuit of a quick fix to get money got involved in this."

Old Danilo cinema sold for £150,000

A FORMER Black Country cinema which had George Formby among its VIP guests on the opening night has been sold at auction, it has emerged.

The property in Dudley Road, Brierley Hill, which has also been used as a nightclub, has been empty for several years. Auctioneers Cottons revealed they sold the property for £150,000. It is not known who bought the 1,200-seat former Danilo cinema.

Neighbour heard raid taking place

RAIDERS tried to break into a Dudley grocery store by knocking down a brick wall, a court heard.

Police were called when a neighbour heard "loud blows to the wall and glass smashing" coming from the Londis shop in Stourbridge Road, Brierley Hill, said Indiv Sharma, prosecuting.

A traffic control camera was trained towards the shop and captured two men running away as police arrived. A number of bricks had been taken from a wall at the back of the shop, said Miss Sharma.

A cordless drill, hammer and screwdriver were found at the scene, which police believed had been used to break through the wall at 2.30am on Wednesday last week.

Police arrested two men they found in a nearby empty building, Miss Sharma added.

James Whitlock, aged 25, of Essex, admitted attempted burglary when he appeared at Dudley Magistrates Court on Thursday.

He will be sentenced at Wolverhampton Crown Court on January 6, and was remanded in custody.



Front left, winners Maya Clarke, Alice Stanley-Haga and Georgina Rollett, with back, illustrator Geoff Tristram and Philip Chapman of Wall James Chapel Solicitors

Pupils' cards give boosts to hospice

CREATIVE children have shown their artistic flair by designing charity Christmas cards to raise money for Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice.

A competition was organised by solicitors firm Wall James Chappell, which invited schools across the borough to design their own cards.

The winners were Maya D'Arcy Clarke, aged six, from Dawley Brook Primary School, Kingswinford; Georgina Rollett, aged eight, and Alice Stanley-Haga, aged 12, both from Elmfield School, Stour-

bridge. The cards are now available to buy from Wall James Chappell in Hagley Road in Stourbridge, priced £5 for 10 cards.

Proceeds from the cards will go to the Mary Stevens Hospice.

Head of fundraising at the hospice Janet Jones, said: "I have been really impressed with the standard of designs that have come in from all the schools who participated and congratulate the pupils and their teachers from the winning schools.

"It is a lovely idea to raise much-needed funds for the hospice."

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Trees treat as church greets festive visitors



Liz Williams and son Jonathan get ready for the Christmas Tree Festival at All Saints Parish Church

A CHURCH in Sedgley is inviting residents to join in their Christmas Tree Festival which runs until this Saturday.

Twenty-five Christmas trees have been delivered to All Saints' Parish Church for the festival. Many businesses have sponsored trees, which have been put up in all parts of the church.

One tree will be reserved for those wishing to remember a loved one by attaching their name.

Martin Jones, one of the festival organisers, said: "It will be a great opportunity for everyone in Sedgley to get into the Christmas spirit."

"The festival is free to get in but visitors are encouraged to donate to the Bingleylands charity if they wish."

Another attraction at the event is be an exhibition of drawings by 92-year-old Ron Baker of scenes from old Sedgley, seen alongside photos of the same locations as they look today.

Memories of local Sedgley residents have been collected at a 'reminiscence session' and a second one is due on Saturday. The church in Vicar Street is open from 11am-3pm.

Council advice via television

PEOPLE can get in touch with Dudley Council and report issues via their television. Sky subscribers can go to the Community Channel on 539 and access Dudley Council's Digi TV site through the red button. The service available to residents across the borough with digital television or access to the internet. It provides free, 24-hour communication with the council and it can be used to report problems such as litter, criminal damage, missed bin collections and housing repairs and request services.

Business takes charge of Black Country future

COUNCILS and business leaders across the Black Country have been given the go-ahead to set up a Local Enterprise Partnership to replace the £300 million-a-year quango Advantage West Midlands. The partnership will bring councils and a board of business people together to ensure the private sector takes the lead in bidding for investment in the region's economy.

The move will allow the Black Country to bid for a share of a £1 billion regional growth fund. Monday's announcement follows lengthy negotiations between the council leaders of Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Dudley and Walsall and business chiefs.

Business Secretary Vince Cable said the bid had been successful. He invited the group to progress to the next stage and set up their boards and get to work in driving local economic growth.

Councillor Paddy Bradley, Wolverhampton City Council's Conservative regeneration chief, said: "We now need to sit down and talk about positive steps we can take to create jobs. But there must be plans put in place, this LEP cannot be just a talking shop."

Stewart Towe, of Smethwick-based Hadley Industries, has been appointed chairman.

Communities Secretary Eric Pickles, who on Monday also unveiled the Government's Localism Bill that aims to hand back power to local people by granting them new powers to take over community services, hailed the Black Country LEP as "a vital new addition" to the growing network of LEPs "to create a fairer and more balanced economy driven by private sector strength".

Foundry

John McDonough, chief executive of Wolverhampton construction giant Carillion, Tim Hair, of Walsall castings foundry Chamberlain & Hill, Jason Wouhra, director of West Bromwich-based East End Foods, and Peter Mathews of Black Country Metals, the Stourbridge scrap metals company, are all on the board.

The lawyers, who all graduated in 1977, met up at The Park Inn, Woodstock, to celebrate the 60th birthday of lecturer Peter Smith, who now lives in the Highlands.

They then went on to the Lamp Tavern, Dudley, and Ma Pardoe's, in Netherton, finishing off with a meal at the French Hen,

Peter tort us all we know say briefs



Former lecturer Peter Smith, centre, with ex-students from Wolverhampton Polytechnic

A DOZEN legal eagles – including one from Dubai, another from Jersey and a third from Scotland – swooped in for a reunion in Dudley, more than three decades after leaving Wolverhampton Polytechnic.

The lawyers, who all graduated in 1977, met up at The Park Inn, Woodstock, to celebrate the 60th birthday of lecturer Peter Smith, who now lives in the Highlands.

"We used to go every year for real ale and a meal at Clent and we met up again in 2007 for the 30th anniversary of our graduation. But we decided to come together again this year for Peter's 60th birthday."

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thechronicle

Council joy over valuation

SANDWELL Council is worth around £30 million more than it was thought. An audit of assets by KPMG showed council housing was worth £17.3m more than it was originally valued.

The council's shares in Birmingham Airport meanwhile increased the value of its assets by £12.4m. Its stake stood at £20.1m of the airport's £327m value. The audit meanwhile showed £21.3m worth of Government grants had been counted as expenditure instead of income. Councillor Steve Eling, Sandwell's finance boss, said:

"The two big, key components are assessing the value of the council's housing stock and its shareholding in Birmingham Airport."

"The audit does not raise our budget or give us any extra money, it's rather an issue of valuations. The main thing for the public is external auditors have told us we have strong financial management, strong governance and good value for money."

Tribute to stalwart of village theatre group

Smokey in hunt for new home

TWO kittens are on the lookout for loving homes after being handed in to a vet's.

A 12-week-old tabby and white kitten was found wandering in Springfield Grove, Sedgley.

Staff at the St George's Vet's in St George's Parage, Wolverhampton, where the kitten has been cared for since November 29, have named her Tabitha.

They are also caring for another new arrival, a six-month-old male cat who narrowly escaped being run over on Birmingham New Road on Monday.

He has been named Smokey because of his grey coat.

Michelle Cox, a receptionist at the practice, said: "They are two lovely cats. The little girl is quite relaxed while the boy is very, very active."

"They would both make marvellous pets."

Anybody who can help is urged to call the practice on 01902 425262.



Michelle Cox, from St George's Vets, with cat Smokey

A CHARTERED accountant and stalwart of amateur theatre in the Midlands has died aged 68.

Tributes were paid to "gentle giant" Geoffrey Alliband who spent more than 15 years treading the boards with Kinver Light Operatic Society.

Born in Darby End, Netherton, he attended the former Sir Gilbert Claughton School, Blowers Green Road, Dudley, where he was head boy in 1958. He qualified as a chartered accountant and worked at Dudley firm Stephenson, Nock & Higgs and later Deloitte in Birmingham.

Mr Alliband, of Heather Drive, Kinver, took semi-retirement 10 years ago but continued to work for a small number of clients.

Referee

He was a member of the Kinver operatic society for 20 years, taking part in a variety of productions and was also a president of Brierley Hill Rotary Club.

A keen sportsman, he enjoyed playing at Envile Golf Club and was also a football referee in the Dudley and Cradley Heath League.

The Wolves fan also founded the Edgcliff Eagles football team, which later became Kinver Colts, in 1980.

Mr Alliband, who died on November 29, leaves wife Barbara, children Adrian, Helen, and David, and grandchildren Charlotte, Ashley, Ernie and Ben.

Adrian aged, 43, said: "He was a gentle giant, very proud of his Black Country roots. He was very well known as he had clients all over the Black Country and Birmingham.

Mr Alliband's funeral was held at St Peter's Church in Kinver.

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Folk tale is festive show

PUPILS at a Halesowen school have performed a Christmas production with a difference.

Youngsters from Olive Hill Primary School staged the Russian folk tale Baboushka.

The play tells the story of Baboushka, an elderly woman who lives alone.

She puts up the three wise men for a night at her home while they stop off from their journey following the North Star to see the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. Though the wise men set off without her the next day, Baboushka attempts to catch them and see the newborn child for herself.

Teacher Karen Geraghty said the play was chosen as it puts a different perspective on the Christmas story.

She added: "We thought it was nice to have the traditional element of Christmas but told in another way."

The 90 year three and four pupils spent two weeks practising their lines before the show, Mrs Geraghty said.



Olive Hill Primary pupils with, front, Abigail Adams, as Baboushka, and Danyal Khan as Baboushka's husband Boris, both aged eight, ready for their performance

Better deal for job-loss workers

REDUNDANCY payments for term-time workers at Dudley Council will rise as it updates policy ahead of expected job cuts.

Changes affect employees who work in schools and other areas of the council during school time only. They will get a bigger slice of their annual pay if they are made redundant.

A report on the council website states that until now workers were paid a regular monthly salary, spreading out their earnings across the year by dividing their annual salary by 52.

A landmark employment tribunal in 2002 stated that was just for "administrative convenience" and it was only fair for employees' annual salary to be divided by the number of weeks they actually work.

It means redundancy pay will rise because it will be calculated on the number of weeks worked rather than on smaller salary instalments.

The ruling said: "It seems just that their redundancy payments should be calculated on the basis of weeks actually worked and not on the basis of a notional 52-week calculation, which takes into account weeks they did not work and for which they were not paid for work."

Buses leave elderly struggling to hospital

Pals stage fundraising show

TWO teenage sisters helped raise more than £550 for charity with a fundraising evening starring them and their friends.

Cydony and Reagan Shepherd, aged 14 and 13, organised the show after they heard about three-year-old Lewis McKenzie-Farnell's battle with kidney cancer and decided to help.

They recruited friends Matt Pittaway, aged 15, Billie Jeavons, 14, Tia Dhami, 12, Tom Withers, aged nine; Katie Teigte, 13, and Megan Fisher, aged 15, to join in.

It was at Beacon Centre for the Blind, Wolverhampton Road East, Sedgley, on Saturday night for friends and family and residents. It raised £200 for the centre and £366 for Lewis.

The girls' grandmother Sue Steadman, aged 56, said the pair live near Lewis and his family in Westfield Road, Sedgley.

Lewis' mother Fiona O'Connor was overwhelmed that the kids had done all that for her little boy. "Mrs Steadman



The Shepherd sisters, Cydony, and Reagan and friends at the Christmas show

ELDERLY people and families in Coseley are struggling to get to hospital appointments because there are no direct bus routes, it has been claimed.

Residents in the area have to catch two buses to reach both Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley and New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton. Ward councillor Susan Ridney raised the issue at a Dudley Council cabinet meeting but was told there were limited funds for the authority to set up a bus service.

She said: "It is really difficult for some people. Lots have been complaining about it. If someone is going to hospital, it is for a reason, so they are usually too infirm to walk very far to a bus stop, or even get two buses. This needs addressing."

Councillor Ridney said Coseley had recently lost the 582 bus route running through Wallbrook to Dudley. So residents now have to walk to Birmingham New Road, to catch the 126 to Dudley bus station, and then get the 246 to Russells Hall. To reach New Cross, a two-bus journey via Wolverhampton city centre or Bilston could take nearly an hour.

Councillor Ridney raised the issue at the meeting in response to the council's new Health Inequalities Strategy. The strategy states the authority will "create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities" by improving access to transport.

Councillor Angus Adams, cabinet member for transportation, said bus routes to the hospitals had been withdrawn in recent years as they were often half empty. He added: "Certain services can, where possible, be subsidised through Centro but if they aren't used enough then it's a problem."

Call to ban school parking

PARKING bans should be introduced around schools in Dudley at peak periods to encourage families to walk, a council chief has said.

The suggestion was made as Dudley Council tries to reduce the number of children being driven to school – despite appointing an "adviser" to tackle the problem in the summer.

Dudley Councillor Adrian Turner, cabinet member for personnel, legal and

property, said parking should be outlawed within three quarters of a mile of schools.

He said the laws should be enforced for an hour in the morning and at home time in the afternoon.

Persuasion

"This is the only way we are going to stop people taking their children to school in a car," he said.

The council launched a campaign in May to encourage children to walk, cycle or use public transport.

An adviser was appointed to help schools write travel plans.

But a report to a cabinet meeting last week claimed that 34 per cent of children were driven to school regularly in 2009.

The target for this year is 33 per cent.

Councillor Susan Ridney said schools needed "more persuasion" to develop travel plans.

She said: "A scheme where a group of children are walked to school and pick some others up on the way would be good."

Saturday TV

Choice



STRICTLY COME DANCING

BBC1, 7pm

It may not have generated quite so many headlines as The X Factor, but it's still been a very good year for Strictly Come Dancing. Unlike in 2009, there were no aggro arguments creating heat波 before the series had even started, while the celebrity line-up was arguably the strongest to date. And of course, there was Amy Winehouse. While some dance purists were annoyed that she stayed while more talented performers got voted out, no one can deny that her routines created a talking point. But now the final is here, will the audience still be in the mood for a laugh, or are things about to get very serious indeed?

6.00 Breakfast **10.00 Saturday Kitchen** Live. **11.30** BBC News; Regional News; **12.00** BBC News; **12.30** BBC Football Focus. **1.00** Sports Personality of the Year: The Contenders. (F) **1.30** Olympia International Horse Show. **2.00** Film: The Game Plan. (2007) **4.30** Final Score: Roundup of football results. **5.10** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.30** Total Wipeout - Celebrity Special.

6.30 The Lap of Honour Show with Christopher and Stay Bawden; Jon Culshaw and Debbie Stephenson impersonate famous faces. (F)

7.00 Strictly Come Dancing. Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly host the final of the contest, in which the three couples vie for the glitterball trophy with an array of dazzling dances. Last in the series.

7.30 The National Lottery Saturday Night Draw. With musical guest Tina Tempa.

8.15 Chemistry. Kinky makes an important decision about her future.

9.00 Strictly Come Dancing. This year's champions are revealed. Last in the series.

9.05 BBC News; Weather.

9.15 Elton of the Day.

Including highlights of Liverpool vs Fulham; National Lottery results.

11.15 The Football League Show.

12.00 The Apprentice. (F) Weather. **1.00** Sign Zone: Operation Mincemeat. (F) **1.30** The Big Silence. (F) **2.00** Rick Stein: Cornish Christmas. (F) **2.30** BBC News; 9.00 Close.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **2.00** CBBC. **12.00** BBC Switch: The Cut. **12.30** BBC Switch: Rule of Love. **1.30** BBC Switch: The S10 Show. **2.00** Bargain Hunt. (F) **2.45** Escape to the Country (F) **3.45** At Home with the Georgians. (F) **4.00** One Man and His Dog. **5.45** Film: The Gun of Nazarone. (1961)

6.00 Dr Who. Amy's unable to hide her delight when Captain Hammering's disreputable brother gets reaches a charity party for local dignitaries. Clodagh, comically starring Arthur Lowe. (F)

7.00 Bloodbath. Edmund Blackadder, comically starring as Queen Elizabeth I, takes a spirited young lad on as his manservant - unaware the fellow's not quite what he seems. (F)

7.15 Home I Love It! BBC Elect. **7.30** House for Sale.

Alexander Armstrong hosts an extended version of the satirical current affairs quiz, with comedian Ross Noble joining regular team captains Ian Hislop and Paul Merton.

9.00 CBBC. **11.00** With Bill Bailey. Bill Bailey and Rob Brydon. (F)

10.45 CBBC. **11.00** The Middle East in Story.

Documentary charting the conflict's rise to fame, featuring interviews with its friends.

12.15 Film: The Drowning Pool. (1975) Thriller sequel, starring Paul Newman. **2.00** Medium. (F) **2.30** BBC News; 9.00 Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: The Fluffy Club. **2.25** ToonTown. **3.30** Monk. **4.00** The X Factor. (F) **4.45** The Morning Line. **5.30** T4: One Tree Hill. **6.30** Weather. **7.25** You've Been Framed. (F) **8.00** Coronation Street 50 Years, 50 Moments. (F) **8.30** Film: A Cinderella Story. **9.00** Film: Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium. (2007) **9.30** Regional Programmes. **10.30** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 Family Film Month. **6.30** The Flintstones. Revisiting the result of the ITV viewers' vote.

7.00 The Circle. Celebrity Speak. Actor Joe Swash and reality TV star Kelly Golbourn play for charity. Lactin in the series.

7.30 This Is Our Life. A boxer, a teacher, a property developer and a rapper try to impress 30 single women, and last week's couple go on their dates. Faddy! McGannigan presents.

8.00 Film: Bridget Jones's Diary. (2001) A woman begins a new year by re-reading to lose love and give up her bad habits. Rom-com based on Helen Fielding's novel, with Renée Zellweger, Hugh Grant and Colin Firth.

10.00 CITV: Home & Away.

10.30 Celty: Live in Berlin. The singer performs with the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra.

12.15 The Zone. Shopping and interactive gaming. **1.30** ITV News Headlines. **2.00** Surface. (F) **2.30** Sons and Daughters. **3.30** ITV Nightbeat. **4.30** ITV Morning News.

Channel 4

6.00 Sci-Fi Mid. (F) **6.45** Yo Gabba Gabba. (F) **7.00** World Sport. **7.30** Sailing. **7.45** The Morning Line. **8.30** T4: One Tree Hill. **9.30** T4: Weather. **10.30** You've Been Framed. (F) **11.00** Coronation Street 50 Years, 50 Moments. (F) **11.30** Film: A Cinderella Story. **12.00** Extreme Fishing with Falcon Green. (F) **12.30** Film: Naughty or Nice. (2004) Feature comedy starring George Lopez. **12.45** Film: Crazy for Christmas. (2008) Family drama, starring Andie MacDowell. **1.00** Film: Call Me Claus. (2001) Christmas family drama, starring Whoopi Goldberg.

2.00 Film: News. **2.30** The Shovel. In a festive edition of the crime drama, the team investigate when a member of the National Society of Authentic Santas is murdered. Starring Simon Baker and Robin Tunney. (F)

3.00 Come Blue with Elle. Helen Hancock hosts the final dinner party in Glasgow. (F)

3.30 Come Blue with Elle. Scott Birdwick hosts the penultimate dinner party in Glasgow. (F)

4.00 Come Blue with Elle. Helen Hancock hosts the final dinner party in Glasgow. (F)

4.30 Channel 4 News.

4.45 The Big Picture. Exploring the relevance of Jesus in modern Britain.

5.00 Xmas and PM's Perfect Christmas. The necessary elements for a perfect Christmas Day. (F)

5.30 Xmas and PM's Perfect Christmas. The duo plan New Year celebrations. Last in the series. (F)

6.00 The Xmas Special Day Live.

11.25 Film: Santa Elektra 2. (2001) Spoof horror sequel, starring Anna Faris.

10.00 King of the Hill. **12.30** Film: An Everlasting Piece. (2000) Comedy, starring Barry Minkow and Brian O'Byrne. **4.15** Brothers & Sisters. (F) **4.30** ER. (F) **5.30** One Tree Hill.

"Without a doubt, the best and easiest to use TV guide on Apple's mobile... The interface is superb" T3 App Chart

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Digital

ITV

9.00 ITV at the Christmas Movie. **9.30** The Xtra Factor: Beat and Worst 2010. **10.30** The Xtra Factor: The Winner's Stay 2010. **11.00** Film: Evan Almighty (2007). **11.30** Celebrity Juice. **12.00** Special.

ITV2

9.00 Book Club. **10.30** Inspector Morse. **11.00** Agatha Christie's Point Blank. **11.30** A Touch of Frost. **12.00** Special.

ITV4

9.00 Film: The Man From the Alamo. (1953) **9.30** Film: Blue Brothers. (1980) **10.00** Film: In Every Country. (1981) **10.30** Film: The Actor. **11.00** Film: Mat Max. (1973).

BBC THREE

9.00 Top Gear. **10.00** Film: Catch Me If You Can. (2002) A conman lies his way across America, posing as a pilot, a doctor and a lawyer, while outwitting the Feds at every turn. **11.00** Drama: Stargate. (1994) **11.30** Film: The Team. **12.00** Film: The Devil's Own. **12.30** Film: The Devil's Own. **1.00** Family Guy. **1.30** American Doll.

BBC FOUR

9.00 Life size: Folk Music at Christmas. **9.30** Warlander: Firewall. **10.00** Reindeerfolk. **10.30** Tom Jones at the BBC.

5

Available for BlackBerry. **9.00** Ugly Betty. **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. **11.00** How I Met Your Mother. **12.00** Friends. **12.30** Meet the Parents.

500

9.00 The Holiday Story. (2006) **9.30** Memento. (1999) **10.00** Turner & Hooch. (1983) Family comedy, starring Tom Hanks, Mare Winningham and Craig T. Nelson. **10.30** 27 Dresses. (2008) A single woman adapts as a bicoastal after her ex-wifely's newly in love with the grown romantic comedy with Katherine Heigl, James Marsden and Kiefer Sutherland. **11.00** Unleashed. Evolution. (2006)

Mark Smith

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Sunday TV

Choice

BBC1

BBC2

ITV1

Channel 4

Channel 5

Digital



SPORTS PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

BBC1, 7pm

Whenever the show is broadcast, fans know that Christmas is just around the corner – but who will be celebrating the festive season with a shiny new trophy on the mantelpiece as well as a turkey in the oven? In the running (and on the pan) for the main award are the likes of Jessica Ennis, Tom Daley, AP McCoy and Graeme McDowell, and expect to see reports about various sporting events from the past 12 months, such as the European Ryder Cup team triumph over the US, this year's Wimbledon and England's flop during the World Cup in South Africa.

6.00 **Breakfast** 24/7 Match of the Day (F) 6.00 The Andrew Marr Show 6.00 **Five Britton Meets Sir Cliff Richard** 1000 Country Tracks 6.00 BBC News 6.05 **Wilf the Milkman** 6.05 EastEnders 6.05 Drop Zone 6.05 Lifeline 6.05 Songs of Praise 6.00 BBC News: Regional News Weather 6.00 **Jimmie's Food Factory** (F)

6.00 **Countryfile Winter Special** The team experience winter on North Uist in the Outer Hebrides, where Matt Baker learns a traditional Scottish dance and John Craven tries his hand at bartering for goods 200 **Sports Personality of the Year** Sue Barker, Gary Lineker and Jake Humphrey present from Birmingham's LG Arena. Includes a review of the year's highlights, before the 2010 recipient of the award is announced. Subsequent programme subject to change.

6.00 **The Apprentice** The two finalists launch a new high-quality, alcohol-free beverage before Alan Sugar reveals who he has chosen as the winner of this year's competition. Last in the series.

6.00 BBC News: Weather 6.00 **Wilf the Milkman** 6.00 **Yuletide** (2007) Premiere. Thriller, starring Pierce Brosnan. Weatherview.

6.30 **Sign Zone: Coast** (F) 6.30 **Holly City** (F) 6.30 **Tim Bens** Time – The High Street (F) 6.30 BBC News.

6.00 **Cbeebies** 200 CBBC Something for the Weekend 6.10 **The Nation's Favourite Christmas Food** (F) 6.15 **Flog It!** (F) 6.15 **Escape to the Country** (F) 6.15 One Man and His Dog 200 **Live Olympia International Horse Show** 6.00 Coast (F) 6.00 Film: Big Jake (1971) Western, starring John Wayne.

6.00 **Blue Peter** The arrival of spring sees the difficult harvest, a party task and the birth of new lambs – as well as a pleasant surprise for Puffin in the run-up to Mother's Day.

6.00 **The Hollyoaks** **Elmwood** **Christmas** St King and Dave Myers find out what mothers are cooking for their families over the festive period, including roast goats and coated cured lamb dressed over birch twigs.

6.00 **The Elusive Pages of Richard III** The actor, best known for his role in One Foot in the Grave and Merlin, reminisces about his career on screen.

6.00 **Elites of the Day 2** Including highlights of Chelsea v Manchester United.

6.10 **Mobile Jam** (2007) **Stargate** A stand-up show by the Australian comedian from his Stripped tour, showcasing the current brand of humour that has brought him success on both sides of the Atlantic.

6.10 **Never Mind the Buzzcocks** (F) 6.10 **Medium** (F) 6.10 **Film: Hammerstein's Vampyre** (1970) BBC News.

6.00 **CTV: The Fluffy Club** 200 **Coronation Street** 6.10 **The Morning Sunday** 6.15 **ITV News: Weather** 6.15 **Coronation Street** 60 Years 30 Moments (F) 6.00 **Film: National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation** (1989) Comedy, starring Chevy Chase 6.00 **Film: The Mummy** (1999) Action adventure, starring Brendan Fraser.

6.00 **Regal Pudding** 6.15 **ITV News: Weather** 6.15 **FILM: Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix** (2007) The young wizard unites his fellow pupils to battle the evil Lord Voldemort. Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Daniel Radcliffe and Gary Oldman.

6.00 **David Susskind on the Orient Express** The Portor star relects the famous train through Europe, exploring its rich history and discovering some of the real-life drama the Orient Express has witnessed over the years.

6.00 **ITV News: Weather** 6.15 **FILM: Alcatraz**

(2007) Premiere. A 10-year-old girl accuses her older brother of a crime he did not commit, with tragic repercussions. Romantic period drama, starring Keira Knightley and James McAvoy.

6.10 **Christmas Tales: The Legend of Santa** (F) 6.10 **The Zone** ITV News Headlines 6.00 **MotorSport** UK 6.15 **ITV NightScreen** Text-based information service. 6.10 **ITV Morning News**

6.00 **Self-Mot.** (F) 6.15 **The Royle Family** 6.15 **Film: The Rover** (F) 6.15 **Film and the Rover** (F) 6.20 **Film: Fireman Sam** (F) 6.20 **Film: Puppet Toy** (F) 6.20 **Nicole Kidman** (F) 6.20 **Film: Hollyoaks** 6.15 **Film: One Day** 6.15 **Film: Sunny Patch Friends** (F) 6.00 **Film: Miss Mao** 6.00 **Film: The Wettest Week** (F) 6.20 **Film: Rockabill and Custard** (F) 6.20 **Film: Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs** (F) 6.20 **Film: Way for Noddy** (F) 6.20 **Film: Sheepdog** (F) 6.15 **Film: Little Princess** (F) 6.15 **Film: The Adventures of Bobble** Top Bill and His Best Friend (F) 6.20 **Film: Funky Christmas Special** (F) 6.20 **Film: Family** (F) 6.20 **Film: Christmas** (F) 6.20 **Film: The Men Show** (F) 6.20 **Film: George Stripes** (F) 6.20 **Film: Shakes** (F) 6.20 **Film: Zoo Day** (F) 6.20 **Film: Zoo Day** (F) 6.20 **Film: Andie MacDowell in Concert** (F) 6.20 **Film: Soddy** (F) 6.20 **Film: A Muppet Christmas Carol** (2008) Premiere. Puppet comedy, with Richard Griffiths, 6.20 **Film: Nine** 6.20 **Film: McMiracle** (F)

6.00 **ITV News: Weather** 6.15 **FILM: Alcatraz** (2007) Premiere. Paul's ill-fated plan for Wister Lane is put in motion. 6.10 **FILM: Father** (2002) A former FBI agent recovering from a heart transplant tracks down his organ donor's killer. Thriller, directed by and starring Clint Eastwood. With Anjelica Huston.

6.10 **FILM: The Hobbit** (2003) Action thriller, starring Richard Morgan etc. (F)

6.15 **FILM: The Real Housewives of New Jersey** 6.15 **American Football** Live. New England Patriots v Green Bay Packers (Kick-off 12.00am) 6.15 **Whistlestop** 2010 (F) 6.15 **Film: One Tree Hill** 6.15 **Film: Self-Mot.** (F)

6.00 **Mistletoe: Peppa Pig** 6.00 **Fairy the Flying Circ.** (F) 6.15 **Film: The Rover** (F) 6.20 **Film: Fireman Sam** (F) 6.20 **Film: Puppet Toy** (F) 6.20 **Nicole Kidman** (F) 6.20 **Film: Hollyoaks** 6.15 **Film: The Edge of Reason** (2004) 6.20 **Film: Kerry Katona – The Next Chapter**

6.00 **Film: The Xtra Factor** 6.00 **The Xtra Factor: The Winter's Story** 6.00 **Film: Take Me On** 6.00 **Film: The Musical** 6.00 **Film: Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason** (2004) 6.20 **Film: Kerry Katona – The Next Chapter**

6.00 **Film: Sherlock Holmes: The Master Blasphemer** 6.00 **Film: Clueless** 6.00 **Film: Single-Handed** 6.00 **Film: One** (1982)

6.00 **Film: Captain Horner** (ID) (1984) 6.00 **Film: The Price and the Passion** (1937) 6.00 **Film: The Professionals** 6.00 **Film: The Sweeney** 6.00 **Film: Bacon's Beer and Pizza Club** 6.00 **Film: Cricket: The Ashes** 6.00 **Film: Jack** (1982)

6.00 **Film: EastEnders: The Greatest Challenges** Part three of three. The show's top 20 challenges. 6.00 **Film: Don't Call Me Stupid** The actress discusses her personal battle with dyslexia. 6.00 **Film: Garry & Stacey Christmas Special** 6.00 **Film: Festive Britania**

6.00 **Film: The Devil's Double** (2009) Dickens' classic ghost story, starring Patrick Stewart.

6.00 **Film: Blood Diamond** (2006) A former FBI agent recovering from a heart transplant tracks down his organ donor's killer. Thriller, directed by and starring Clint Eastwood. With Anjelica Huston.

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sport

Youngsters rewarded for sports excellence

YOUNG sporting stars from Dudley have been recognised in a glittering awards ceremony honouring their achievements over the past year.

The eighth annual Awards for Sporting Excellence event saw 35 youngsters from 13 borough schools receive their award from champion Olympic rower Debbie Flood at the ceremony at the Saltwells Centre, Netherton.

Among winners was 17-year-old Dudley College student and hammer-thrower Chad Rhodes, who received the special award for outstanding achievement for the second time.

The event also rewards pupils who give something back to sport by coaching other.

In this category Adam Barnett, 17, who also studies at Dudley College, won the Leadership and Contribution award for foot-

The full list of winners

Abbey Smith, Dudley College; Step in Sport Programme	School; Football	Dan Brown, Ridgewood High	School; Swimming	Megan Barnes, Windsor High
Adam Barnett, Dudley College; Football & Generic Sports with Special Educational Needs Groups	School; Football	Oliver Westbury, Ellowes Hall	School; Swimming	Sam Johnson, Windsor High
Adam Gallis, Ellowes Hall School; Sports Leadership	School; Cricket	Jitesh Jivat Patel, Old Swindford Hospital; Cricket	School; Swimming	Samantha Meesa, Kingswinford School; Golf
Sophie Bishop, Dudley College; Step in Sport Programme	School; Cricket	Edwin Taylor, Old Swindford Hospital; Cricket	School; Gymnastics	Florence Taylor, Peter's Hill Primary School
Francesca Tibbets, Summerhill School; Dance	School; Dance	Owen Williams, Old Swindford Hospital; Cricket	School; Gymnastics	Bradley Hill, Windsor High School; Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu
Grace Nicholls, Coseley School; Swimming	School; Dance	Samuel Smith, Old Swindford Hospital; Rugby Union	School; Gymnastics	Luke Timbrell, Coseley School; Ten Pin Bowling
Sophie Harbach, Windsor High School; Tennis	School; Dance	Dan Dale, Summerhill School; Cricket	School; Gymnastics	Jessica Pegg, High Arcal School; Netball
Lucy Clay, Windsor High School; Cricket	School; Cricket	James Bragg, Crestwood School; Football	School; Gymnastics	Chad Rhodes, Dudley College Athletics; Hammer throwing
Ben Hadley, Dudley College; Association Football	School; Cricket	Lauren Sanders, Ellowes Hall	School; Gymnastics	Amy Stevenson, Kingswinford School; Basketball
Christopher Knight, Dudley College; Football	School; Cricket	Samuel Soper, Swimming	School; Gymnastics	Philippe Humphrey, Edgecliff High School; Rounders
Ryan Greenwood, Kingswinford School; Tennis	School; Cricket	Aimee Sanders, Ellowes Hall	School; Gymnastics	

ball and generic sports. Ms Flood, who won a silver medal at both Athens in 2004 and Beijing in 2008 as well as being named world

Welcome victory, if a touch unconvincing

Kidderminster C 32
Earlsdon 19

THREE WEEKS of inactivity culminated in a welcome, if not entirely convincing, league win for Kidderminster Carlians.

The visitors had played the previous week and were the sharper side in the opening stages.

But Earlsdon missed an

early penalty opportunity and the home side gradually began to work themselves back into the match.

writes Martin Easton.

Midway through the half

full-back Andy McLellan

came into the line to put the posts which McLellan

knocked over for Carlians

winger Nick Martin over

to retake the lead.

Good support then saw

second row Chris Baldwin

cross for a try before Martin

scored on a loose ball to

knocked over for Carlians

winger Nick Martin over

to retake the lead.

Powered over from a

lineout.

Earlsdon responded with a try for

their left wing but Chris

Baldwin then muscled over

for a try, converted by

McLellan, to establish a 32-

12 lead although the visi-

tors had the last word.

Heathens offer cut-price deal

DUDLEY Heathens are offering fans cut-price season tickets in time for Christmas.

Details and how to buy

online are available on website www.dudleyheathens.co/admission.php

Admission prices for the new season have also been set at £10 adults (the same as last season), £6 concessions and £2 children.

The former Cradley club's opening night for the 2011 season as

Tuesday April 12 at Monmore Green against the USA touring team.

Heathens have confirmed Ashley Morris as their first rider signing and will talk to Tom Perry.

It's Rock solid for winners Stour

Stourbridge 2
Brackley 1

A STRONG second-half performance saw Stourbridge overturn a half-time deficit to run out deserving winners.

The home side fell behind after just four minutes when a long-range drive from Jamie Gould took a deflection to wrong-foot Stourbridge keeper Lewis Solly.

Brackley continued to shade the early stages and went close again on 24 minutes as Owen Story fed Tom Winters who turned and hit a low shot past the post.

On 39 minutes Ryan Rowse was tripped just outside the penalty box and Billingham saw his 20-yard free-kick beat Nathan Thackeray but bounce down off the crossbar, Leon Broadhurst heading the loose ball against the outside of the post.

The home side's endeavours finally paid off in the 65th minute. A deep left-wing corner from Drake led to Nathan Bennett getting in a header that was handled out of the line by former Kidderminster player Marcus Bignot.

He was sent off and the Glassboys were awarded a penalty. Billingham's spot-kick was parried by Thackeray but the midfielder slotted home the rebound.

Stourbridge swept forward again to take the lead in the 69th minute.

Cradock provided a low diagonal ball into the box where Rock got ahead of his marker to steer his shot home.

DK BOUNCE BACK FROM THE BREAK

AN ENFORCED three-week break due to the weather did Dudley Kingswinford no harm as they returned to league action with yet another victory.

Stratford-upon-Avon became DK's 12th consecutive victims of a blistering run of victories which kept up their three-point advantage over Sutton Coldfield at the top of Midlands 1 West.

DK looked threatening from the start but rustiness saw them lose possession twice early on when close to the home line.

They had two lucky escapes at the other end when Stefan Shillingford's defensive kick was charged down, only for the Stratford prop to lack the pace to reach it near the goal line, before full-back Mike Plant missed a straightforward penalty.

Matt Farrington made the hosts pay for their profligacy when he went over in the corner for an unconverted try, writes Peter Stinton.

Flo Vialan was yellow-carded for Stratford and DK took advantage to extend their lead with a fine Shillingford try following a 30-metre dash, which was converted by Gareth Bown for 12-0.

A superb break

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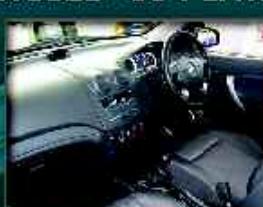
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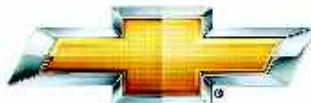


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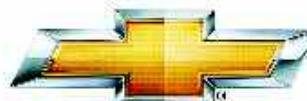
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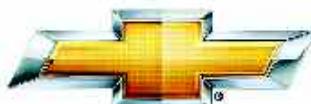
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